

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 2 has been amended to refer to the perpendicular planes, claims 14 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the subject matter of claims 1 and 3, respectively, claims 15 and 23 have been amended to depend on claims 1 and 3 alone, respectively, and new claims 25-26 corresponding to claims 15 and 23, respectively, but reciting a plurality of crushers and rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the subject matter of claims 1 and 3, respectively, have been added.

These amendments are formal in nature and do not raise any new issue. Accordingly, it is submitted that the amendments should be entered.

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. Independent claim 1, and claim 2 dependent thereon, as well as independent claim 3, and claims 4-13, 16-21 and 24 dependent directly on indirectly on claim 1, are directed to a crusher. Claims 14 and 22 are directed to a multi-stage crushing assembly, and claims 15 and 23 are directed to a medical waste-sterilizing installation, and they are dependent on claims 1 and 3, respectively. Independent claims 25-26 are directed to a medical waste-sterilizing installation.

In the Office Action, claims 15 and 23 are objected to as multiple dependent.

Claim 15 has been amended to depend on claim 1 alone and claim 23 has been amended to depend on claim 3 alone, and new claims 25 and 26 have been added corresponding to claims 15 and 23, respectively, but reciting a plurality of crushers and rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the subject matter of claims 1 and 3, respectively. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 2, 14 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second

paragraph, as indefinite for lack of antecedent basis of “the orthogonal planes” in claim 2 and confusing dependent format in claims 14 and 22.

Claim 2 has been amended to refer to the perpendicular planes, and claims 14 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the subject matter of claims 1 and 3, respectively, as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial Number: 09/856,489

Group Art Unit: 3725

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Nicolas E. Seckel  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 44,373

**Atty. Docket No.: 010679**  
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 822-1100  
Fax: (202) 822-1111  
Customer No.: 38834  
NES:rep